



April 24, 2015

Dear David:

As part of our mission to speak on behalf of the faculty at UGA, I am writing to you on behalf of the GACRC Advisory Committee to advocate for better “data resources” for the research faculty at UGA.

With the roll-out of the Sapelo cluster, I feel that UGA has significantly improved high-performance computing. Guy is also doing a great job of connecting UGA to regional and national high-performance computing resources. For example, we participated in the recent NSF proposal led by Jim Bottum at Clemson, and Guy has offered to help connect UGA researchers to XSEDE.

While our HPC resources could arguably be better, they are certainly not bad. Individual data storage for faculty and students has also improved recently with the availability of OneDrive from Microsoft. Each person at UGA has 1Tb available for storing and sharing data.

What is lacking are resources for storing, sharing, and archiving large research datasets. Many researchers on campus are accumulating Terabytes of research data that they need to maintain, organize, and share. Frequently this is being required by funding agencies, some of which require that datasets be stored and made accessible for five or ten years. For example, as you know, the NSF now requires a Data Management Plan. The NIH requires that data be kept for 3 years after the end of a grant. Storage can now be purchased through the GACRC buy-in program which is an improvement, but the minimum purchase is about \$40K. And if researchers want to publish this data through a website or create a database, there is no software support.

We are not claiming to have a solution to the problem or writing to demand any specific immediate action, but simply want to bring the matter to your attention and let you know that this is a matter of concern to the faculty. We hope that this letter will help start a conversation about what data resources UGA can and should provide.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Kner
Assistant Professor
Chair, GACRC Advisory Committee
College of Engineering
University of Georgia